

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic ~~still~~ camera  
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of detectors which are provided  
4 respectively at different positions, each of ~~and~~ which  
5 detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a  
6 hand to make an image pickup operation;

7 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in  
8 which ~~a predetermined power and/or driving pulse is~~  
9 ~~supplied to an image pickup device, capable of commencing~~  
10 can commence an image pickup operation immediately in  
11 response to a release instruction, wherein the stand-by  
12 mode can be entered <sup>commence</sup> even if a shutter release switch is not  
13 pressed; and

14 an image pickup controller which controls the camera  
15 to perform a preliminary operation for image pickup if both  
16 ~~a first condition wherein the stand-by mode is set by the~~  
17 ~~mode setup unit and the image pickup operation is allowed~~  
18 ~~to be commenced immediately in response to the release~~  
19 ~~instruction, and a second condition wherein all of the~~  
20 plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a  
21 hand, are both satisfied.

1 Claim 2 (previously presented): A camera according to  
2 claim 1, further comprising mode holding means using a  
3 non-volatile memory, which holds a setup state of the  
4 stand-by mode set by the mode setup unit even during a  
5 power-off period.

1 Claim 3 (previously presented): A camera according to  
2 claim 1, further comprising a mode release unit which  
3 releases the stand-by mode when the stand-by mode is set by  
4 the mode setup unit and a period in which at least one of  
5 the plurality of detectors does not detect the contact or  
6 approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): A camera according to claim 1,  
2 further comprising operation controller which renders only  
3 a part of the plurality of detectors operational, when the  
4 stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit and a period in  
5 which at least one of the plurality of detectors does not  
6 detect the contact or approach of a hand reaches a  
7 predetermined time.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): A camera according to claim  
2 1, wherein the plurality of detectors are provided at least  
3 at a grip part and proximal to a release button part of a  
4 camera body.

1 Claim 6 (original): A camera according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the preliminary operation includes at least automatic  
3 exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and automatic white  
4 balance adjustment.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): An electronic ~~still~~ camera  
2 comprising:  
3 a detector which is provided near a release button and  
4 ~~detects contact or~~ adapted to detect an approach of a hand  
5 to the release button to make an image pickup operation;  
6 a main power switch which switches on and off a power  
7 source of the camera; and

8 an image pickup controller which executes a  
9 preliminary operation for image pickup so that an image  
10 pickup operation can occur immediately in response to a  
11 release instruction, if both ~~a first condition wherein the~~  
12 power switch is set on and ~~a second condition wherein the~~  
13 detector detects the ~~contact or~~ approach of a hand ~~are both~~  
14 satisfied.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): A camera according to  
2 claim 1, wherein the preliminary operation includes at  
3 least electric conducting to an image pickup device.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): An electronic ~~still~~ camera  
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of detectors which are provided  
4 respectively at different positions, each of and which  
5 detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a  
6 hand;

7 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in  
8 which ~~a predetermined power and/or driving pulse is~~  
9 ~~supplied to an image pickup device, capable of commencing~~  
10 can commence an image pickup operation immediately in  
11 response to a release instruction, wherein the stand-by  
12 mode can be entered even if a shutter release switch is not  
13 pressed; and

14 an image pickup controller which executes a  
15 preliminary operation for image pickup if both ~~a first~~  
16 ~~condition wherein~~ the stand-by mode is set by the mode  
17 setup unit and ~~the image pickup operation is allowed to be~~  
18 ~~commenced immediately in response to the release~~  
19 ~~instruction, and a second condition wherein at least one of~~

20 the plurality of detectors detects the contact or approach  
21 of a hand, ~~are both satisfied.~~

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for controlling an  
2 electronic ~~still~~ camera, comprising:

3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera  
4 body, by each of a plurality of detectors provided  
5 respectively at different positions on the electronic  
6 camera;

7 bringing an image pickup system including at least an  
8 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the  
9 image pickup system ~~commences~~ can commence an image pickup  
10 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,  
11 wherein the stand-by state can be entered even if a shutter  
12 release switch is not pressed; and

13 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if  
14 both ~~a first condition wherein the image pickup system is~~  
15 ~~in the stand-by state and the image pickup operation is~~  
16 ~~allowed to be commenced immediately in response to the~~  
17 ~~release instruction, and a second condition wherein all the~~  
18 plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a  
19 hand, ~~are both satisfied.~~

1 Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to  
2 claim 10, wherein the preliminary operation is executed if  
3 all the plurality of detectors detect the contact or  
4 approach of a hand.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim  
2 11, wherein when detecting, if the image pickup system is  
3 in the stand-by state and a part of the plurality of  
4 detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand to make

5 an image pickup operation, another part of the plurality of  
6 detectors that was previously non-operational, starts a  
7 detection operation.

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according to  
2 claim 10, wherein the plurality of detectors are provided  
3 at least at a grip part and a release button part of a  
4 camera body.

1 Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to  
2 claim 10, further comprising writing a setup of the image  
3 pickup system in the stand-by state into a non-volatile  
4 memory if an input for turning off a power source is given.

*Call out*  
1 Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to  
2 claim 10, further comprising releasing the stand-by state  
3 when the stand-by state is set and a period in which at  
4 least one of the plurality of detectors does not detect the  
5 contact or approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 Claim 16 (original): A method according to claim 10,  
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least  
3 automatic exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and  
4 automatic white balance adjustment.

1 Claim 17 (original): A method according to claim 10,  
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least  
3 electric conducting to the image pickup device.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for controlling an  
2 electronic ~~still~~ camera, comprising:

3 detecting ~~contact or an~~ approach of a hand to a  
4 release button by a detector provided near a the release  
5 button;

6 switching on and off a main power source of the  
7 camera; and

8 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup so  
9 that an image pickup operation can occur immediately in  
10 response to a release instruction, if both a first  
11 ~~condition wherein~~ the power switch is set on and a ~~second~~  
12 ~~condition wherein~~ the detector detects the ~~contact or~~  
13 approach of a hand to the release button ~~are both~~  
14 satisfied.

Call out  
1 Claim 19 (original): A method according to claim 18,  
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least  
3 electric conducting to an image pickup device.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for controlling an  
2 electronic ~~still~~ camera, comprising:

3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera  
4 body, ~~by using each of~~ a plurality of detectors provided  
5 respectively at different positions on the electronic  
6 camera;

7 bringing an image pickup system including at least an  
8 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the  
9 image pickup system ~~commences~~ can commence an image pickup  
10 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,  
11 wherein the stand-by state can be entered even if a shutter  
12 release switch is not pressed; and

13 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if  
14 ~~both a first condition wherein~~ the stand-by mode is set and  
15 ~~the image pickup operation is allowed to be commenced~~

16 ~~immediately in response to the release instruction, and a~~  
17 ~~second condition wherein at least one of the plurality of~~  
18 ~~detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand, are~~  
19 ~~both satisfied.~~

1 Claim 21 (new): The camera of claim 1 wherein at least one  
2 of the detectors is adapted to detect an approach of a  
3 hand.

1 Claim 22 (new): The camera of claim 9 wherein at least one  
2 of the detectors is adapted to detect an approach of a  
3 hand.

1 Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 10 wherein the act of  
2 detecting detects an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 20 wherein the act of  
2 detecting detects an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 25 (new): The camera of claim 1 wherein at least one  
2 of the detectors is a pyroelectric sensor.

1 Claim 26 (new): The camera of claim 1 wherein at least one  
2 of the detectors is a photosensor.

1 Claim 27 (new): The camera of claim 7 wherein the detector  
2 is a pyroelectric sensor.

1 Claim 28 (new): The camera of claim 7 wherein the detector  
2 is a photosensor.

1 Claim 29 (new): The camera of claim 9 wherein at least one  
2 of the detectors is a pyroelectric sensor.

1 Claim 30 (new): The camera of claim 9 wherein at least one  
2 of the detectors is a photosensor.

1 Claim 31 (new): The camera of claim 1 wherein, initially,  
2 a first one of the detectors is rendered operational while  
3 a second one of the detectors is rendered non-operational  
4 until a contact or approach of a hand is sensed by the  
5 first one of the detectors, at which time the second one of  
6 the detectors is rendered operational.

On  
and

1 Claim 32 (new): The camera of claim 7 wherein, initially,  
2 a first one of the detectors is rendered operational while  
3 a second one of the detectors is rendered non-operational  
4 until a contact or approach of a hand is sensed by the  
5 first one of the detectors, at which time the second one of  
6 the detectors is rendered operational.

1 Claim 33 (new): The camera of claim 9 wherein, initially,  
2 a first one of the detectors is rendered operational while  
3 a second one of the detectors is rendered non-operational  
4 until a contact or approach of a hand is sensed by the  
5 first one of the detectors, at which time the second one of  
6 the detectors is rendered operational.

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